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Senate moves JOBS bills to spur economy, job creation

Legislation aids start-up businesses, private labs and companies hiring new employees

LANSING – The state Senate today moved three parts of the JOBS Action Plan as it continues to address short-term budget deficits and long-term economic prosperity for the state.

"The importance of small businesses to Michigan's economy cannot be overstated," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "There's also no coincidence that we moved these bills forward on the day we approved the tobacco tax compromise. We've said all along that short-term and long-term solutions to Michigan's budget woes must be accomplished hand-in-hand."

Senate Bills 1302-1305 provide tax relief to start-up businesses during their first few years, which often are the most difficult for businesses to survive. SB 1274 provides tax relief for businesses who hire new employees. By doing so, businesses who expand job opportunities for Michigan residents will not be penalized for doing so. House Bills 5742 and 5743 provide opportunities for private labs in Michigan to do business with the state, spurring economic vitality in the high-tech sector and additional job opportunities.

The legislation passed today is part of the JOBS Action Plan, a Republican legislative initiative designed to create new job opportunities, save existing jobs and promote a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

"Through the spirit of cooperation, we are getting the budget balanced and providing opportunities for residents to find meaningful employment," Sikkema said. "These two issues must be addressed together. The legislation passed today represents three of five key initiatives we've proposed to get Michigan's economy moving again. We will have these finished and to the governor before we break for summer, and we look forward to the governor's signature."